

SB1211 – Proposed additional opt-in opportunity

Senator Raymond E. Basham introduced legislation in 2006, SB1211, to amend the METRO Act to allow ineligible municipalities that elect to opt-in. The METRO Authority mailed letters on April 28, 2006 to 40 municipalities that have not opted in to PA 48, informing them of the proposed legislation and requesting they complete and return an “intent notice form”

The intent form gave the municipalities three options to choose from, depending on whether and/or when the proposed legislation was enacted:

1. The municipality intended to take appropriate action by June 30, 2006 to become eligible (opt-in) to be allocated for 2006 METRO Act funds to be distributed by June 15, 2006; and thereafter. (The form must have been returned by May 26, 2006 and action taken by June 30, 2006.)
2. The municipality intended to take appropriate action by December 31, 2006 to become eligible (opt-in) to receive their pro-rata distribution of any available 2006 funds after the above cited June 2006 distribution; and thereafter. (The form must have been returned and action taken by December 31, 2006.)
3. Municipality does not plan to take appropriate action to become eligible to receive METRO Act funds in 2006 as cited above; or thereafter.

However, SB1211 expired in the lame duck session. As a result, 2006 METRO Act funds will not be available to those municipalities that returned intent forms and selected either option 1 or 2. It is expected that similar legislation will be introduced in 2007.